

Why Kenya?

Business-Friendly Regulatory Reforms



Kenya recently completed a regulatory overhaul smoothing the path for investors.

"The reduction by 'Regulatory Guillotine' of business licenses in Kenya from 1,347 to 195 is a key result that will contribute to reducing the cost of regulation of the private sector in Kenya..."

- » The Kenyan Government used the "Regulatory Guillotine" to eliminate extraneous and unnecessary regulations that prevented economic growth and hampered businesses.
- » Kenya has enacted reforms to simplify the licensing regime and make it more transparent.
- » The World Bank rated Kenya as the top African nation in dealing with construction permits. The World Bank rated Kenya as the sixth-easiest nation in the world in which to get credit.

Source: [The World Bank](#)

Kenya 
VISION 2030

Learn more at
<http://investmentkenya.com>

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Kenya E-Alert

Yesterday, Senator Mark Kirk of Illinois took to the Senate floor to praise Kenya's latest actions with regard to Somalia. A transcript is below, and the full video of his remarks can be found [here](#):

November 2, 2011

MARK KIRK-IL

FLOOR STATEMENT

Mr. President, I rise today to thank the Government of Kenya and its President Mwai Kibaki for the difficult decision he and his government have made with regard to Somalia.

We all recall Somalia as the site of the Blackhawk Down tragedy in 1993, and as much as Americans might wish to ignore that troubled country, I don't think we can.

Somalia is a country whose government collapsed in 1991, but has now given rise to what is the second largest terror presence on Earth – the al-Shabaab. This country also represents a new 21st century threat of piracy across America's Persian Gulf supply lines.

On October 16, 2011, at the invitation of the Somali Transitional Federal Government (TFG) in Mogadishu, Kenya launched Operation "Protect the Country" against the al-Shabaab terrorist organization in southern Somalia.

Al-Shabaab is an Al-Qaeda affiliate and has been designated as a foreign terrorist organization under US law since 2008. It is responsible for multiple attacks in Somalia, Kenya, and Uganda, including a suicide bombing in July 2010 in Kampala that killed 76 people, including an American citizen – 25-year old Nate Henn of North Carolina who worked for the Invisible Children nonprofit organization. On October 25, 2011, Al-Shabaab kidnapped and is still holding another American citizen, 32-year old Jessica Buchanan from Virginia.

About 4,000 Kenyan troops are now approaching the critical port city of Kismayo, where Al-Shabaab is headquartered. The success of the Kenyan operation would mean a significant weakening of Al-Shabaab's ability to plan and execute terrorist attacks and would greatly contribute to regional stability.

Also joining in the fight against Al-Shabaab are prominent local tribal militias, including Ahlu Sunnah Waljamaah (ASWJ), the Raas Kaambooni Front, and the Jubaland militia formed under the leadership of the former TFG defense minister, Mohamed Abdi Mohamed.

I commend the Kenyan government and the allied groups for their action. The United States

and NATO should support for this Kenyan action.

Al-Shabaab poses a grave threat to Kenya's safety and security. Since 2009, Al-Shabaab conducted at least 10 attacks on Kenya's soil and territorial seas or along the Somalia-Kenya border. In a particularly heinous crime, on October 1, 2011, they kidnapped a disabled French woman on Kenyan soil and dragged her to Somalia, where she later died. Last week, militants linked to Al-Shabaab threw a grenade into a Nairobi nightclub.

Because of Al-Shabaab's refusal to allow access for humanitarian organizations to the territory they control, Kenya is now home to over 600,000 Somali refugees. In many ways, the famine and distress that is now evident in Somalia should be called the "Al-Shabaab famine."

Al-Shabaab also poses a direct threat to the United States by actively radicalizing and recruiting American citizens.

On October 29, 2011, a suicide bomber attacked an African Union (AU) base in Mogadishu, killing himself and 10 more. The suspect, Abdisalan Hussein Ali, was a 22-year old American citizen who grew up in Minneapolis and studied to be a doctor before he suddenly disappeared to join Al-Shabaab in 2008. The audio recording he allegedly made before his death contains this disturbing message likely aimed at young Americans: "Today, jihad is what is most important. It's not important that you become a doctor, or some sort of engineer."

According to the FBI, Mr. Ali was one of 30 Americans that has joined Al-Shabaab. In August 2010, the FBI arrested 2 and charged 12 more Individuals in Minnesota, Alabama, and California "with acts of terrorism that include providing money, personnel, and other material support to the Somali-based terrorist organization al Shabaab." At the time, Attorney General Eric Holder called it a "a deadly pipeline that has routed funding and fighters to al Shabaab from cities across the United States."

On July 27, 2011, an investigation by the House Committee on Homeland Security found the following:

1. Al-Shabaab has an active recruitment and radicalization network inside the U.S. targeting Muslim-Americans in Somali communities. It also ensnared a few non-Somali Muslim-American converts, such as a top Shabaab commander:
 - At least 40 or more Americans have joined Shabaab;
 - So many Americans have joined that at least 15 of them have been killed fighting with Shabaab, as well as three Canadians;
 - Three Americans who returned to the U.S. were prosecuted, and one awaits extradition from The Netherlands;
 - At least 21 or more American Shabaab members overseas remain unaccounted for and pose a direct threat to the U.S. homeland.
2. Al-Shabaab has the intent and capability to conduct attacks or aid core Al Qaeda and Al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula in Yemen withstriking U.S. interests and

the U.S. homeland.

3. Al-Shabaab has not only openly pledged loyalty and support to Al Qaeda and AQAP in Yemen, but has cemented alarming operational ties to both groups.

The House report also points out that after the successful US operation to kill Osama Bin Laden, Al-Shabaab leadership eulogized him and vowed revenge against the United States. Omar Hammami, another Al-Shabaab leader raised in the United States, "swore blood revenge against his own homeland for the May 1 killing of Osama Bin Laden", according to the report.

Al-Shabaab poses a grave threat to regional stability and to our own national security. I thank the Kenyan government and their allies in Somalia for taking action. Our Administration and our NATO allies should support Kenya.

We should also make sure that in extending this support, we have the objective to collapse Al-Shabaab in Somalia. While Al-Shabaab may have found ways to recruit more American citizens to wage jihad against their own country, with luck, there hopefully will be no Al-Shabaab to fight for if they ever reach Somalia.

Thank you, Mr. President. I yield the floor.

For more information, please contact DJ Carella at (202) 777-3531 or dcarella@clsdc.com.

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